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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0533**

HENRY A. WAXMAN  
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

June 5, 2013

Mr. Robert Perciasepe  
Acting Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460-0001

Dear Acting Administrator Perciasepe:

I write to share my concern about reports that the National Estuary Program (NEP) will be disproportionality affected by the budget reductions required under the Budget Control Act and Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations.

As you know, The Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 (Public Law 100 – 4) established the National Estuary Program to identify nationally significant estuaries that are threatened by pollution, land development, or overuse, and to award grants that support the development of comprehensive management plans to restore and protect them. The National Estuary Program provides annual funding to 28 estuaries, including Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), which is located in the 33rd District of California, which I represent.

It is my understanding that the Budget Control Act requires a cut of 5.2% to EPA programs on top of the seven percent cut in funding for the Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) account from Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations. If taken uniformly, this would result in a cut of about twelve percent to EPM programs. NEPs were recently informed that they would be required to absorb a 15% cut, however, resulting in funding reduced from \$600,000 to \$512,000 for each NEP. SMBRC has stated that these cuts may result in curtailing a residential rain barrel program that helps meet numerous Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and municipal stormwater goals; reductions in SMBRC staff pay and time; and limiting the Public Involvement and Education small grants program, which helps local partners engage harder-to-reach communities in restoration activities.

I appreciate the difficulty you are facing in determining how to absorb these deep cuts. I voted against the Budget Control Act because I did not believe it was a responsible way to assure deficit reduction. I am concerned, however, that the National Estuary Program is being asked to take on a disproportionate burden of these budget cuts.

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The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission does important work to improve the quality of the Santa Monica Bay and surrounding waterways. SMBRC is vital to the coastal economy and every dollar it receives from EPA leverages over ten non-federal dollars. During this difficult budgetary environment, I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that the National Estuary Program is not unfairly or disproportionately cut. I look forward to your response on this important matter.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN

Member of Congress

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